GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1140
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2008
CHILDREN AS SEX WORKERS
Sen Smt. Minati

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that children are forced to become as sex workers by use of physical violence; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and steps taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a) As per study commissioned by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India titled "Girls/Women in Prostitution in India" the common factors for entry into prostitution are illiteracy, lack of vocational skills, economic distress, migration, growing consumerism, ill-treatment by parents/guardians, desertion by spouse, dejection in love and deception.

(b) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) supplemented by the Indian Penal code prohibits trafficking in human beings including children for purpose of prostitution and lays down severe penalties for traffickers. The ITPA is now being further amended providing for more stringent punishment for trafficking in persons including children. The Ministry of Women and Child Development conducts advocacy, awareness generation, sensitization programme for prevention of child trafficking. The Central Advisory Committee on combating Child Prostitution headed by Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India reviews the States's activities in combating trafficking and prostitution every quarter. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the scheme of Ujjawala wherein prevention of trafficking is included as a specific component. The Ministry also runs Swadhar Shelter Homes which provide shelter, food, clothing, emotional support, counseling, rehabilitation and other facilities to women in difficult circumstances including trafficked victims and children.